



Evaluation Report

2021-2022

Contents

Item	Page Number
Foreword	3
Executive Summary	4
Section 1: Context and History of the Programme	6
Section 2: T:BUC Camps 2021/22 Application Process	7
Section 3: T:BUC Camps 2021/22 Assessment Process	8
Section 4: T:BUC Camps 2021/22 Delivery	9
Programme 2021/22 OBA Scorecard	10
T:BUC Camps in the Community	14
T:BUC Ambassadors	15
T:BUC Trees	18
Social Action	19
Section 5: Exploring the data	20
Section 6: Longitudinal Summary	21
Section 7: Lessons Learnt	22
Section 8: Recommendations	24
Acknowledgements	31

Foreword

I am delighted to be publishing this evaluation report -highlighting the successes of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Camps Programme in 2021-2022, a key headline action of the T:BUC Strategy; providing opportunities for young people to explore good relations, meet new friends and engage in a range of activities supporting them to reach their full potential at over 100 T:BUC camps this year.

As Assistant Director of Youth Services , Education Authority (EA), I recognise and value the role and contribution of the many people who's dedication makes this work possible, supporting young people to engage positively as active members of their own and wider communities. Covid and the pandemic continued to impact the delivery of the programme in 2021-2022 but the resilience and commitment of organisations, their staff and young people ensured that the programme has gone from strength to strength.

As the administrator of the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of The Executive Office, Education Authority recognise how their Vision, Mission and Values align closely with the key actions of the T:BUC Strategy.

As you read this report you will see how much progress has been made and there is consistent interest and commitment to providing these opportunities for young people in the future. It is with this in mind that a review of some processes within the application and delivery model is ongoing and I look forward to working with you to pilot and evaluate any potential changes.

T:BUC Camps Programme is integral to the T:BUC Strategy, benefiting young people and enabling them to contribute to the type of society they want to be part of. We hope that as the T:BUC Camps programme becomes further embedded in communities and wider society that the 'ripple effect' will ensure more young people are enabled to participate and have their contribution celebrated and recognised.

Arlene Kee

Assistant Director of Youth Services



Executive Summary

The Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy, published in May 2013, is a key strategy in developing and supporting good relations across all sections of our society.

The T:BUC Camps Programme is one of the seven headline actions of the T:BUC Strategy. It provides opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 from all backgrounds to come together, try new experiences, have fun, and build longer term relationships, through a programme of good relations.

Since the commencement of the T: BUC Camps Programme in 2015, over 750 camps have been delivered involving more than 26,000 young people.

The Education Authority (EA) act as Programme Administrator for the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of The Executive Office (TEO). Each year a robust quality assured assessment process is undertaken and in total 132 applications were received in 2021-22. The application process was supported through a series of Funding Support Workshops to provide support and guidance to ensure potential applicants are supported to submit high quality applications.

The assessment process took place from 15th- 23rd March 2022. The process started with engagement with a range of community, voluntary and statutory partners who volunteered to be assessors, a thorough briefing and standardisation of assessors was undertaken. Assessors were allocated a selection of applications, assessments took place, followed by consensus and finally oversight by an independent panel. All assessments and consensus panels were hosted online.

The T:BUC Camp Programme headline action is to deliver over 100 camps each year. This was achieved with great success, in a time when Government restrictions and guidance remained in place, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. 110 Camps were delivered in 2021-22 and over 2500 T: BUC Camp participant baseline surveys were completed; almost all of the respondents articulated more positive attitudes and a greater understanding towards people from other communities and backgrounds.





Data gleaned from 3352 evaluations received from participants highlights:

- 1461 of participants were from Protestant communities
- 1585 of participants were from Catholic communities
- ethnic backgrounds:
Asian - 21 Black - 51 White - 3205 Mixed - 55 Other - 20

Data below is based on 2,529 respondents in post camp survey results

- 2,417 participants who plan to stay in contact with friends made at camp after the project ends
- 86.5% feel more favourable people towards people from a different religious / community background
- 85.5% feel more favourable towards people from a different ethnic background
- 82.9% have a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds

This year saw the pilot of the very successful T:BUC Trees Programme, an opportunity to engage in a social action project with an environmental theme. In its inaugural year over 130 young people took part in T:BUC Trees and over 800 trees were planted. Environmental work featured highly as a theme for Social Action Projects and a range of other social action projects were delivered including projects focused on food security, peer education and fundraising.

The T:BUC Camps Ambassadors Programme continues to grow in strength and some of their achievements included managing the Camps in the Community Programme where over 180 young people were engaged in a celebration of their achievements and sharing of good practice, in 3 events across NI. The group also planted 200 trees at the Stormont Estate, in partnership with T:BUC Ambassadors from DFC's Uniting Communities Through Sport Programme.

This evaluation report includes further information on the gender of participants, participation of young people from ethnic minority backgrounds, age range of young people participating alongside information on bands applied for and group size. Despite the challenges in 2021/22 due to the Global Pandemic the number of camps successfully delivered was 110 and this compares favorably with previous years.

The report identifies learnt in 2021/22 and provides key recommendations for the programme going forward. These fall under three key areas of training/capacity building, simplification of processes and addressing under-representation.

In January 2022, Ministers gave approval for a review of the current T:BUC strategy to be undertaken. The review will focus on the current strategic model, how it is funded, being delivered, and how the outcomes from delivery are monitored. Once the review is completed, the development of a new good relations strategy will begin.



Section 1: Context and History of the Programme

The T:BUC Strategy provides a vision based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation. It also provides the framework for government action in tackling sectarianism, racism and other forms of intolerance while seeking to address division, hate and separation.

Key priorities

The T:BUC Strategy outlines how Government, the community, and individuals, should work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of:

- Our children and young people;
- Our shared community;
- Our safe community; and
- Our cultural expression.

Headline actions

The T:BUC Strategy sets out seven strategic headline actions and a range of other actions and commitments that provide innovative approaches to bringing about the conditions that will contribute to a united, shared and reconciled community. One of these was to Pilot 100 Shared Summer Schools by 2015.

T:BUC Camps Aim

Provides opportunities for young people aged 11-19 from all backgrounds to increase their understanding and build long lasting friendships in a shared environment.

Leader's View

“ This was a great year and it was fantastic to meet up face-to-face once again with young people - our activities were greatly enjoyed by all involved but a key element of T:BUC Camps, to me, is the overnight residential and there really is no substitute for bringing young people together. ”



Section 2: T:BUC Camps 2021/22 Application Process

132 applications were received for T:BUC Camps in 2021/22, this represented 119 organisations (84 voluntary and 35 statutory organisations).

Applications were supported through individual support to groups via the T:BUC team. This included the facility to submit applications in advance of the closing date for essential criteria checks. Online Funding Support Workshops were delivered. These workshops provided all the information required to ensure groups could submit high quality applications and provide opportunities for shared learning. Shared learning gave groups with less experience the opportunity to hear from those with more experience and developed a sense of shared responsibility.

Eleven workshops were delivered in 2021-22 and these were all delivered online due to covid restrictions in place at that time. Twenty organisations submitted their applications within the timeframe to enable the TBUC Team to review essential criteria and provide feedback thus supporting organisations to resubmit an application of higher quality and with a stronger chance of attracting funding. Of the 20 organisations who availed of this opportunity 17 groups came from the Community and Voluntary Sector 2 from sporting organisations and 1 uniformed group, of the 20, 4 were new.

Ciara Grant, Peer

“

This experience has entitled me to so many new opportunities and experiences such as being able to successfully lead a group of young people and making new friends.

”

“

I've loved the programme and wish we could do it again next year.

”



Section 3: T:BUC Camps 2021/22 Assessment Process

The assessment process for 2021/22 TBUC Camps Programme took place between the 15 March and 23 March, with a whole day online briefing and standardisation for all assessors on the 15 March. The programme for the day included a range of inputs including a contextualisation and overview of the T:BUC Camps Programme and wider T:BUC Strategy. The day also included a demonstration, standardisation on a ‘fictional’ application and finally an opportunity to undertake a first assessment in the supportive environment of the briefing day.

Ten assessments panels were required and each panel assessed approximately 13 applications. Assessors were drawn from a wide range of voluntary and statutory youth and community organisations including The Executive Office, Education Authority, a range of local councils, local and regional voluntary youth organisations.

When the panels had completed their assessments, an Independent Panel reviewed 10% of all applications as part of the Quality Assurance Process.

This ensured that the assessment process was robust and any learning points from this process could be considered for future assessment processes.

“

With the many different cultures and backgrounds in the group I was able to learn more about others.. I will still have a relationship with others from the group after this programme has passes.

”



Section 4: T:BUC Camps 2021/22 Delivery

In 2021/22, a total of 110 T:BUC Camps were delivered with 3352 young people participating. A wide range of T:BUC Camps were delivered, some using sport, art, drama, music or outdoor pursuits to deliver the good relations message.

Participants included 1461 young people from Protestant communities and 1585 young people from Catholic communities, there were also young people from a range of ethnic backgrounds.

Participants in the T:BUC Camps Programme also included 186 young people who had a disability and 889 young people who had not been involved in youth club or community group before.



How much did we do?*

110

No. of camps successfully delivered –

123

No. of participants who had no religion

186

No. of participants with a disability

107

No. of camps with evaluations complete

183

No. of participants who had “other” religion

889

No. of participants not involved in youth club/ community group before

3352

No. of participants as per evaluation reports

No. of participants from each of the following ethnic backgrounds:

38

No. of participants excluded from school

1461

No. of participants from Protestant communities

21

Asian

51

Black

3205

White

55

Mixed

55

Other

The 2021/22 T:BUC Camps Scorecard is based on evaluation data returned by 2532 young people in their post camp surveys, which represents an almost 76% return.

*This data is based on 107 evaluations, 3 programmes failed to collect this data for their evaluation report

How well did we do it?

2,532

No. of young people who completed the project (Post camp surveys)

2,518

No. of young people who felt the camp environment was open and inclusive

2,532

No. of young people who had fun taking part in the project

97.8% (2,472)

%/ No. of participants who feel a personal benefit from the experience (e.g. confidence, skills, participation)

2,444

No. of people who made friends with people from a different religious tradition/ background at camp

98.1% (2,477)

%/No. participants who feel they would like to be more involved in peace building activities in the future



Is anyone better off? (numbers)

Data in this section relates to results from 2,127 comparable overlap results for matching from respondents and only details a change in score between the surveys

1,515

No of participants who feel more favourable towards people from a different religious/ community background

1,435

No of participants who feel more favourable towards people from a different ethnic background

1,688

No. of participants who have a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds

1,533

No. of participants who feel more strongly that the culture and traditions of different religious backgrounds add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland

1,517

No. of participants who feel more strongly that the culture and traditions of different ethnic backgrounds add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland

Data below is based on **2,529 respondents in post camp survey results**

2,417

No. of participants who plan to stay in contact with friends made at camp after the project ends



Is anyone better off? (%)

Data in this section relates to results from 2,127 participants, providing 84% response at the end of the Camp Programme

86.5%

% who feel more favourable people towards people from a different religious / community background

85.5%

% who feel more favourable towards people from a different ethnic background

82.9%

% who have a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds

83.7%

% of participants who feel more strongly that the culture and traditions of different religious backgrounds add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland

84.4%

% of participants who feel more strongly that the culture and traditions of different ethnic backgrounds add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland

Data below is based on 2,529 respondents in post camp survey results

95.6%

% of participants who plan to stay in contact with friends made at camp after the project ends



Camps in the Community

Annual Camps in the Community events provide young people participating in T:BUC Camps with the opportunity to come together to share and celebrate their experiences. Three events involving 180 young people were held in Belfast, Armagh and Coleraine in 2021/22. Further information on the T:BUC Camps in the Community events can be found in the infographic below.



T:BUC CAMPS IN THE COMMUNITY(CITC) 2022

The CitC events aim to provide young people participating in T:BUC Camps with the opportunity to share and celebrate their achievements, strengthen and further develop relationships and positively promote the T:BUC brand within the local and wider community. The T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors - young leaders from previous camps - were integral in the preparation and delivery of the event. They were supported by the Education Authority (EA), who deliver the T:BUC Camps programme in partnership with TEO and DE. Attendees were able to learn more about the T:BUC Ambassadors Programme, and see how they contribute to successful events such as CitC.

WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT?



180 young people participated in Camps in The Community 2022 over three events in Belfast, Armagh and Coleraine



Presentations were made by groups and young people showing the activities and social actions the groups undertook, as well as the friendships built and the impact T:BUC Camps had on the lives of the young people participating.



Young people participated in a series of Good Relations workshops throughout the day at each camp. The workshops focused on Cultural Expression and What Is Community through the medium of art, music and dance.



WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

Organising CitC allowed us the opportunity develop camps and activities to include the things that we want to do

Camps in the Community helped me to get out of my comfort zone and build my confidence!

CitC really helped me get a better understanding of the programme and become more involved



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION



T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors Programme

The Ambassadors Programme presents an incredible opportunity for young people aged 15 plus, who have previously been a Camp participant. It is delivered by the Education Authority on behalf of The Executive Office, as part of the Northern Ireland Executives' Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy. Ambassadors help to shape and direct the future of the T:BUC Camps Programme.

The key outcomes of the Programme are:

- Ambassadors have an authentic voice, to help influence the Camps Programme going forward
- Ambassadors are skilled to become advocates for peace building work and the role young people have to play in this
- Ambassadors become leaders of the future who will drive the good relations agenda forward

2021/22 has been an incredible year for the Ambassadors, as their programme grows from strength to strength. They have been supported to fulfil their roles and have completed training which has led to a number of remarkable achievements:

- Managing events across Belfast, Armagh, and Coleraine, reaching over 180 young people, to help them share their experiences and achievements on their own camps programmes
- Creating a film showcasing their work on the Camps in the Community Programme and the role of Ambassadors
- Completing accredited training to support their roles in understanding diversity and how to unite communities through leadership

- Been represented by an Ambassador at the One Young World Event at Washington DC and Puerto Rico
- Working with the Washington Ireland Programme, to complete a forum on mental health
- Participating in a number of consultations including the EA Regional Assessment of Need and DE Children and Young Peoples Strategy
- Planting over 200 trees in Stormont Estate, with Uniting Communities Ambassadors, as part of the T:BUC Trees Programme
- Completing 2 training residentials to enhance their leadership skills
- Completing a study visit to develop relationships in the Balkans, in preparation for an international programme in the area, enhancing their understanding of good relations issues in a global context
- Engaging with Senior Officials and Elected Representatives, to showcase their work and achievements, and advocate on behalf of their peers

“

I respect my team mates regardless of where they live or what school they go to. Through training with them and being in workshops I know more about them and where they come from and what's important for me is that we get on and enjoy playing football together.

”

T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors Programme in Numbers:





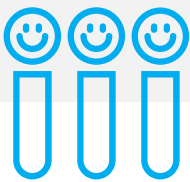
AMBASSADORS

WASHINGTON IRELAND PROGRAM



COMMUNITY FORUM ON MENTAL HEALTH

The T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors took part in a bespoke Community Forum delivered by the Washington Ireland Programme (WIP). The WIP Community Forums are designed to empower young people with the design thinking and collaborative skills needed to effect positive change in their local areas. Ambassadors were given the opportunity to choose the topic of their Forum and they chose "Mental Health on the Island of Ireland".



14 Ambassadors from the T:BUC Camps Programme and 2 Ambassadors from DfC's Uniting Communities Programme took part in the Forum over an evening (online) and a full day at Belvoir Youth Centre

Ambassadors shared their opinions and views, beginning with more neutral topics and progressing to challenging and more controversial issues related to Mental Health

Each group was asked to look at one of four areas:

Stigma of mental health

The relationship between mental health healthcare providers and the communities they serve

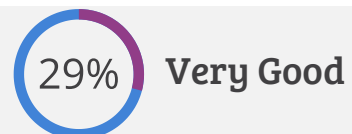
Cross-border initiatives on mental health on the island of Ireland

Technology and mental health.



The winning innovation promoted a youth census, aimed at gathering data on mental health which could better inform both government and NGO spending on mental health services.

Ambassadors rating of
Community Forum:



it has improved my self-confidence with others. It also helped my ability to consider other ideas

it has impacted my ability to interact and listen to others opinions

enjoyable experience of working together in a group and being able to have a healthy debate



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION

T:BUC Trees


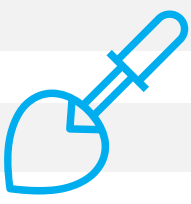
The T:BUC Trees initiative provides a range of opportunities for organisations to engage people in environmental initiatives including tree planting and caring for the environment. Participants from the T:BUC Camps Programme and Ambassadors took part in four events in 2021/22 and further information can be found in the infographic below.



T:BUC TREES INITIATIVE 2021/2022

T:BUC Trees is a social action opportunity delivered in partnership by The Executive Office, Woodland Trust NI and the Education Authority. The initiative is designed to provide a range of opportunities for young people to engage in planting trees with a wider focus on caring for the environment whilst participating in the T:BUC Camps programme.


HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

	Over 800 trees planted	
	Over 130 young people took part	
	3 tree planting events in Belfast Hills near Cave Hill	
	Celebration event in Stormont Estate	

EVALUATION

 of ambassadors say the state of the natural environment is important to them	 of ambassadors feel the environment is a good way to bring people from different backgrounds together
 of ambassadors see tree planting as a way of improving the natural environment for everyone	 of ambassadors said taking part in T:BUC Trees was a positive Good Relations experience

FUTURE PLANS AND IDEAS

 of ambassadors would like to see T:BUC Trees events rolled out across all 11 Council areas



"I would like to learn more about the individual impact each tree we plant has"

"It was a brilliant event and experience with excellent Good Relations. Would be brilliant for similar events to happen more often and in a wider variety of places"

"Include some way to encourage businesses and individuals to reduce their emissions."



Social Action

A key component of the T:BUC Camps Programme is that each Camp must deliver a social action activity/project that is identified by their participants. This ensures young people have a voice in their Camp. This provides young people with an opportunity to come together and take part in a project that is meaningful to them and their communities. This can include volunteering, fundraising, community action or raising the profile of an issue in their area.

Examples of social action achieved in 21-22:

- Improving their local environment and shared spaces through tidying up, collecting rubbish etc
- Gardening work in local communities
- Working with local food banks
- Making wellness packs for others
- Tree planting as part of the T:BUC Trees Programme
- Creating Christmas hampers and cards for people in need
- Beach Clean Up
- Worked in partnership with many local and regional charities to support food and aid appeals
- Supporting creation and maintenance of sensory gardens and community gardens
- Random acts of kindness
- Fundraising
- Youth conferences, planned and managed by young people, for other young people

The range of social action projects undertaken is more diverse each year and the benefits to children and young people and wider society are highly regarded. The table below gives a numerical breakdown of the number of projects which took place in 2021/22.

Social Action Type	Number of Projects
Environmental	46
Service to the Community	29
Service to other young people	15
Fundraising	7
Miscellaneous	13

Maureen Larkin, Camp Leader

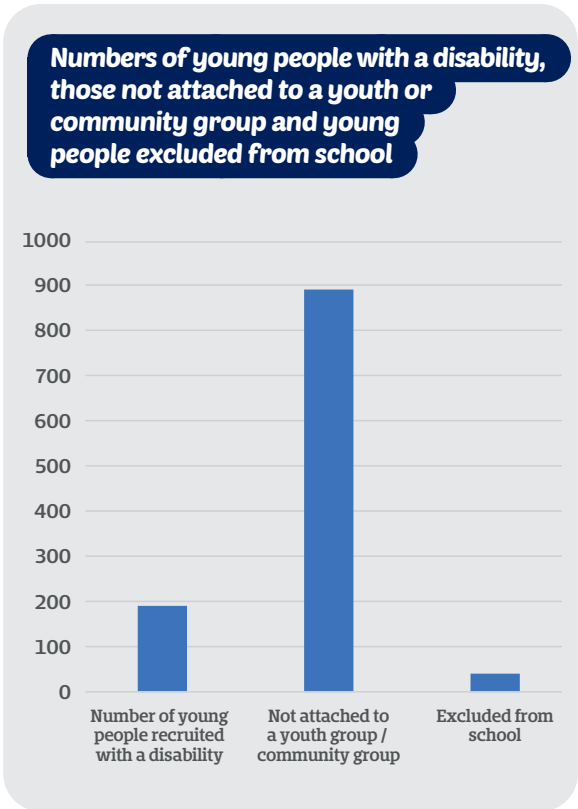
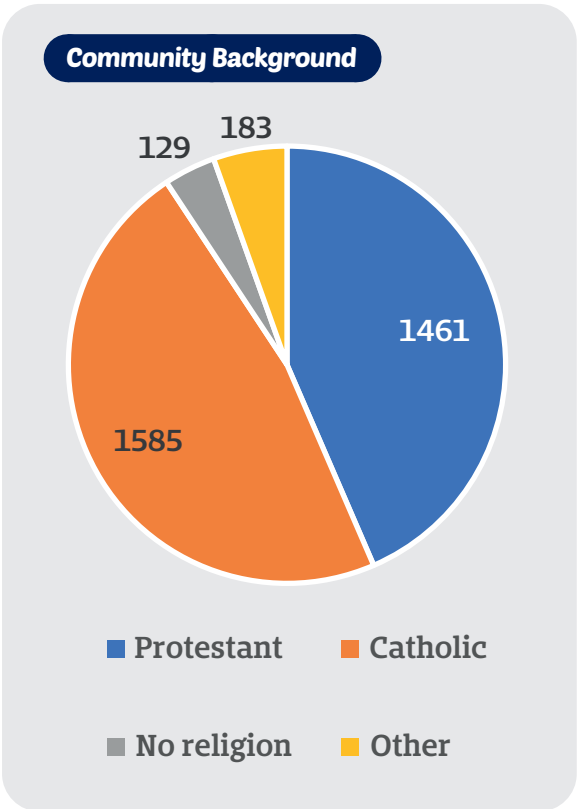
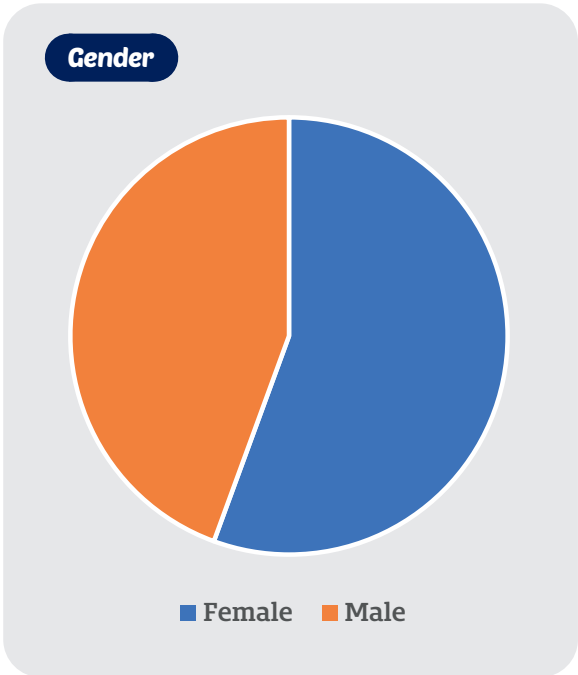
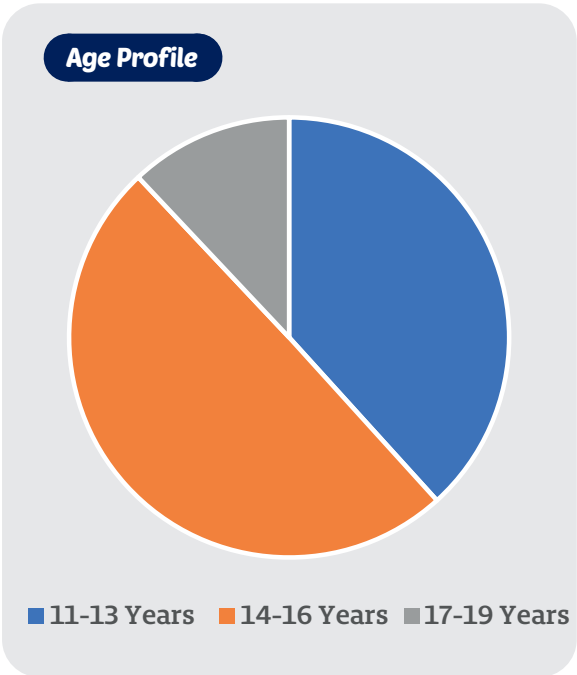
“

Even though we were again hampered in our delivery of this programme by Covid we were able to provide a wide variety of opportunities and experiences for this group of young people. The work with our peer group was a highlight and will become an established aspect of our future T:BUC programmes. The peers embraced the responsibility of co-delivery with staff, but it is our intention that in next year's programme they will be able to facilitate the workshops themselves with minimum support from staff. We also hope to initiate a new group of peers who will be trained by our current peers in the role of mentors.

”



Section 5: Exploring the data



Section 6: Longitudinal Summary

In the years between 2015/16 and 2021/22 there have been over 750 T:BUC Camps delivered with around 26,000 young people participating. The infographic below provides further information on the outcomes of the programme over a 6 year period from 2016/17 to 2021/22



**T:BUC CAMPS PROGRAMME
LONGITUDINAL REVIEW 2015 - 2022**

The T:BUC Camps Programme is one of the seven headline actions of the T:BUC Strategy. The programme is delivered in partnership with the Education Authority (EA) and the Department of Education (DE) with EA acting as Programme Administrator on behalf of the Executive Office (TEO). Good Relations learning is at the heart of every T:BUC Camp. It provides opportunities for young people aged 11 - 19 from all backgrounds to come together, try new experiences, have fun and build longer term relationships.

HOW MUCH DID WE DO?



Over 26,000 young people participated in T:BUC Camps between 2015-2022

Over 750 camps successfully completed

Over 9 million pounds of funding awarded to groups



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION

HOW WELL DID WE DO? (SIX YEAR AVERAGE)



of participants felt they personally benefited by gaining confidence and building new skills



of participants made friends with someone from a different religious/community background



of participants have an increased willingness to be more involved in peace building activities

IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?



of participants feel more favourable people towards people from a different religious/community background.



of participants feel more favourable towards people from different ethnic backgrounds.



of participants think culture and traditions of different religious backgrounds adds to the richest and diversity here





Section 7: Lessons Learnt

Despite changing restrictions and, due to the impact of Covid, the Programme has had another year of incredible success. The results of the scorecard are very positive and help evidence the impact of the Programme on young people, their organisations, and their communities.

110 camps were successfully delivered in a very challenging year for groups, ensuring over 3000 young people were engaged in good relations work. The figures below demonstrate some of our key outcomes as reported by young people who have participated in the T:BUC Camps Programme:

- 98% of young people said they would like to be involved in more peace building projects in the future
- 87% of young people felt more favourable to those of a different religious background
- 86% of young people felt more favourable to those of a different ethnic background

I cant believe we organised all of this ourselves.

“ I love doing the mural board as my voice was heard when I suggested things. A great way to finish off the camp and it was great we were all involved. It helped remind me of everything we did over the summer and the friends we made. I love art so I loved this part of the camp. It was the best part for me. ”

The social action element of the Programme is key and grows in strength each year. It allows young people to have a clear voice in the process and the range of activities are incredible, benefitting so many people in need, and raising awareness of issues such as climate change, poverty, and loneliness.

Work continues to help address under representation in the Programme, both geographically and across sectors. To increase applications and address any under-representations, the Programme specification and methods of promotion should be reviewed, to help address any gaps. Any efforts to simplify the application and evaluation processes, would be welcomed by all groups.

Really made me think about how I sometimes doubt myself when I really shouldn't.

The EA Good Relations Resource Pack is used by most groups in their programme delivery, and helps enhance the quality of the good relations content, in Camps. Training in good relations and case study writing was delivered this year to great success. Training should be made available annually to support groups, with opportunities for sharing good practice increased.

I have actually really enjoyed T:BUC way more than I thought I would and think it was definitely a good learning opportunity for myself and everyone else attending. Id definitely recommend other people join T:BUC next time.

Leader's View

This programme was challenging at times, especially with Covid and the pandemic as during the course of the programme there was inconsistent numbers attending with families or young people isolating at times. But it was great to have young people on residential again as this was the first time that some of the young people had experienced being away from home and experiencing a residential in over 2 years or more.

Groups continue to use a wide range of methodologies to engage their young people in good relations work. Those most popular this year included outdoor learning, creative arts, digital media, sport and music.

T:BUC has helped me make new friends both from the same and other religions/ethnicities. It's also helped me come out of shell more, to talk more freely instead of just staying quiet.



Section 8: Recommendations

This recommendations below outline the steps that could be taken to address the issues identified in the Lessons Learnt section:

- To provide more opportunities for groups to access training to support programme delivery and evaluation, and to share good practice
- To review the current T:BUC Camps Programme model, from application to delivery, to propose a fresh approach, aiming to simplify all processes and to increase applications
- To continue to address any areas of under representation in the Programme

“

The young people enjoyed working in the older generation gardens a lot of them don't have grandparents so have never really interacted with older people, so they learnt new skills with gardening and also with commutation too. they appreciated all the comments they received while working hard and it made they feel apart of the community.

”

“

10/10, T:BUC was lots of fun, I liked playing games and meeting new people and I made new friends.

”

“

Loved being involved in the programme and getting to know different people.

”

“

It helped build relationships and it was fun to meet new people and make new friends with all the different religions and communities.

”

Leader's View

“

I would encourage T:BUC to be continued and highly recommend it, in the rural areas. This funding and resources were a major need for this specific area. These young people live in such remote places in that having a friend from a different background or even making a friend would be a challenge. I would recommend any youth provision to apply for the funding.

”

Leader's View

“

The only recommendation I would have is that we carry out more programmes such as this. The good relations work the club facilitates is essential to the development of our community. We all operate in an extremely divided area and we are making meaningful strides to bringing people of different backgrounds together at a young age.

”

Leader's View

“

One of the best wee groups I have ever worked with - they really embraced the idea of a united group and I've no doubt they will be friends for years.

”

Leader's View

“

How important programmes like T:BUC are!... they focus in on peace and reconciliation, and allowing young people to learn more about themselves and their community.

”

Tiana

“

Being an Ambassador has given me the skills to become a leader in my own community. The people I have met and the opportunities I was given shaped me into a more confident and outgoing young person, and I am excited for the future.

”

Case Study: Participant journey

The C.A.R.E Project (Communities, Aspire, Relations & Empower)

Gender: Female

Age: 14

Area From: Kilfennan

Before Journey/Recruitment Stage.

The beginning of the Journey- the young person was disengaged and never involved in a youth club setting. She was from a CNR background and lived in an area where there was no community hub or setting. Young person never took part in cross community work even in a school setting. She didn't have friends from PUL background before participating.

Young person was recruited through outreach work as name was also mentioned through consultations with our partner groups who support us. Young person was getting involved in risk taking behaviour underage drinking/vaping on the weekends which had the potential of getting involved in more anti-social behaviour.

During Project

Young Person agreed to participate in the programme. She was nervous coming into Lincoln Courts as it was mainly a PUL background, and the area was an alienated part of town for her. Young person was nervous and reluctant to take part in icebreakers and activities throughout the first few sessions. However, as the weeks went on, she began to feel more comfortable and get involved in the activities. Her confidence was starting to increase which led to her being more open with young people from different backgrounds.

During the programme, the young person started to form new friendships. It even led to her walking to the community centre with a young person from a PUL background. Each young person lived in Kilfennan near each other, however, never spoke to each other beforehand. This shows the success of the programme as it shows young people mixing from both backgrounds and forming friendships.

Legacy of Project

- Young Person continues to attend Lincoln Courts Youth Club
- Young Person is currently taking part in a project called 'Strengthen Futures' which allows her to achieve 3 OCN qualifications.
- She still maintains her new friendships.
- Throughout the project we seen a decrease in risk-taking behaviour and an increase in confidence.

Young Person's View

"It was a fantastic programme to be involved in. It opened my eyes and was educational in a very fun way. I loved the trips as there was so many places I haven't been before. I have made so many new friends and I wish I joined sooner."

Youth Leader's View

It is always brilliant to see a young person get involved in programmes and see positive changes. The young person highlighted got what she put into the project after a quiet start. The case study highlights the important of youth work and the impact it could potential have.



Case Study: Organisation

The T:BUC Mega 21/22 camp began in March 21. The first stage of the programme was the establishment of a peer leader group which could be trained to help in the design and delivery of the programme. There were 10 peers and 50 camp participants.

“

I didn't want to pick up litter at the start but then when people stopped to talk to me and tell me i was doing a good job I took pride in the fact I was making a difference.

”

The recruitment of both groups was initially conducted by a social media campaign and then shortlisted by the peer group. The young people in both the peer group and the camp participants came from across the areas of South Armagh, Newry and the Mournes. There were over 70 applications for the 50 places and selection was made using criteria which gave, in as much as was possible a gender, religious, and geographical balance.

The programme plan entailed a number of initial contact days, with a 3-night

residential in the Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Corrymeela and a number of days for work on the social action part of the programme, culminating in a celebration event to finish. The peers and staff undertook a study visit to Corrymeela and the peers were so enthusiastic about their plans. However, emerging from a lockdown period and still faced by many restrictions our plans had to be modified.

Jacob

“

The whole Ambassadors experience has been incredible; I have got to make a lot of new friends and feel I am making a difference in my community through my learning and new skills learned. My confidence has shot right up, I am doing things I never thought I would. A totally life changing experience.

”

The residential could not happen. We had to find a venue which could cater for such a large group without compromising safety. With a venue secured we had to redesign the programme as a 3-day camp without the residential aspect. The camp included workshops in Ceili Dance, Drumming, Arts and Crafts, Sports, Street Games, Identity, Prejudice and Stereotyping, Flags and Symbols and plenty of craic. As their social action the whole camp took part in the T:BUC Trees programme. On a blisteringly cold December Saturday the group planted over 100 trees.

Caitlin

“

Being a T:BUC ambassador has opened up so many opportunities for me. Being from Fermanagh there hasn't been many opportunities for me and my friends to make a difference within our communities but through T:BUC this has changed. I have gained many skills and qualities that will guide me through life and help other young people. I have also made so many new friends that are as passionate about volunteering as I am. With connections now all over Northern Ireland I find out about what T:BUC is doing within other communities which was discussed at camps and community day which was held in Armagh this year. Hearing other young peoples projects and what they believe is needed within their communities is so empowering. Being a T:BUC ambassador is forever a part of me.

”

The T:BUC Peer programme was an integral part of the overall camp and it was great to see the development in the skills and confidence of this group who have gone on to take up roles in the Youth Council and T:BUC Ambassadors.

“

I'm looking forward to coming back every year to see how much the trees have grown.

”

This group were recruited through our Facebook page and recommendations from staff about young people who had shown potential for leadership on previous T:BUC Programmes. They have undertaken OCN level 2 Award in Youth Leadership as well as Safeguarding and delivery of CR workshops. As part of the programme these young people produced a short video highlighting their journey through T:BUC. They had the opportunity to present the video at the T:BUC Camps in the Community event in Belfast's Mac Theatre in February 2022.

“

I like how we all have so many ideas about helping our community.

”



Through group discussion the young people felt that a Christmas jumper appeal for Save The Children was a very good idea. Due to the closeness of the programme to the Christmas Period the young people ran Christmas Jumper events in their communities to raise money for Save The Children. They wore Christmas jumpers, had a raffle and donated the entrance fees of that week's youth to the project and together raised £120 for the appeal.

Kasey

“

The ambassador programme has provided me with allot of new opportunities to meet new young people with similar interests to my own from different communities. The programme has challenged us in terms of public speaking and challenging our fears. And giving us many opportunities such as a week long trip to Croatia, topic of conversation for university interviews and further programme details for us to get involved with.

”

For the T:BUC social action the young people involved in the project identified climate & environment as an issue that they wanted to raise awareness of. they created a questionnaire for young people to complete in schools & youth centres across north Belfast. when the results came back they decided that planting trees on the grounds of EA youth centre sites across north Belfast would help tackle the climate crises while also educating young people on the issue.

“

I loved learning new skills and leaving my mark on my local community hub.

”



For their social action plan the young people offered to do gardening for older residents around the estate and they appreciated the older people making them a cuppa and biscuits, it gave them a chance to have a chat with them. The young people also hung bird houses and feeders around the public forest walkway and enjoyed telling walkers about the project they were doing. everyone who stopped to have a chat to the young people were impressed with them and this gave the young people a good appreciation off their own community.

REACH Across Members and Leaders organised a Sleep Out to highlight homeless young people in the Council area. Members and Leaders initially agreed on St Columbs Park House as a neutral location and then began planning catering, lighting, entertainment and rules for the 12 hour event.

The young people took pride in their community and when residents made comments on how hard they were working they were so proud of themselves. they worked hard and also stopped to have conversation with people telling them why they were doing their social action plan.

The young people enjoyed working in the older generation gardens a lot of them don't have grandparents so

have never really interacted with older people, so they learnt new skills with gardening and also with commutation too. they appreciated all the comments they received while working hard and it made they feel apart of the community

Young people developed planning, decision making and problem-solving skills when preparing to facilitate their sessions. Group members also developed leadership, communication, organisation and interpersonal skills during the delivery of good relations sessions with the junior group. This also helped to improve self-awareness and confidence and self-esteem amongst individuals within the group, as well as strengthening relationships developed between young people from different cultural and geographical backgrounds.

Megan, Peer

“

Through T:BUC I have learnt more than ever before, even COVID couldn't come in the way of many bonds that were developed during this camp. I witnessed so many friendships coming together after being segregated for so long. Many children came in here not knowing anything more than their own background, they soon left not only knowing more about other religions but accepting people from other cultures and backgrounds and developing friendships within.

”

Luke, Participant

“

We had great craic every day even if we didn't get to stay over and I did actually learn something.

”

“

I feel like we're making a difference to the climate/environment.

”

Andrew

“

I have really enjoyed being a T:BUC Ambassador. It has given me so many opportunities I would not have gotten. I have become more confident and have met and made so many friends along the way. The skills I have learned have equipped me for the future as a leader and I want to keep giving back to my community by using these for other young people. Getting to be the voice of young people is a great opportunity and one I feel proud of.

”

“

T:BUC Ambassadors has been a life changing experience for me. It has provided me with so many once in a lifetime opportunity, which has changed my life forever. It has allowed me to grow as a person whilst making new best friends for life. T:BUC Ambassadors has helped me to develop my understanding of different religions and cultures in a safe and understanding place. Being a T:BUC Ambassador has taught me so many skills that I will use my whole life. Without the Ambassadors programme I can confidently say I would not be the same person I am today.

”

Acknowledgements

EA would like to thank all those who contributed to this report, the staff who worked to make the 2021/22 Programme such a success, and the young people themselves, for their creativity, optimism and positive engagement, without which the Programme would not exist.